SENATOR STONEY: You are welcome.

PRESIDENT: Record your vote. Record.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to adopt the resolu-
tion, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The resolution is adopted. LR 174. Senator
DeCamp has been excused. That completes resolutions. We
go to Item #7, Senator Lamb's motion to raise a bill.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President, members of the Legislature,
I hesitate to ask to raise a bill from committee. I have
never done it before but I have no other alternative. The
bill is locked in committee on a four to four vote. It
has to do with state aid to schools and I have been waiting.
The twenty day period under the rules is long past. I have
been waiting in hopes that the bill would advance from com-
mittee but I now have given up hope on that. You have on
your desks a brief explanation of what the bill does. LB 638
restores the distribution formula for state aid that has
been in use for several years, and that is, $45 million are
appropriated to the foundation and equalization fund and
$10 million to the foundation fund. Now the basic problem
we have now is that the distribution formula of LB 33 which
was designed to distribute $75 million or more is now being
used to distribute $55 million. This results in windfalls
for some districts and for undeserved hardships in other
districts. LB 638 represents a middle-of-the-road approach
to solving the problem. In essence, the Attorney General
has ruled in several opinions that $55 million can be dis-
tributed almost any way we would like. I have an opinion
from him in which he states that LB 638 meets his guidelines
for this distribution. Now operating under the Attorney
General's guidelines of distributing $55 million, we have
several options and one option is that we can do nothing.
Under this situation, the formula that is now being used
is fully funded at about fifty, forty-nine million dollars.
That means that about six million dollars will not be dis-
tributed. So the schools of the state will be losing six
million dollars. Now the supporters of this proposal to do
nothing are saying or will argue that the opponents of LB 33
should have known the distribution formula would have been
changed so, therefore, they should not have initiated the
petition drive. I submit that this is not true because
even after the petition drive was successful the State
Department of Education did not know what distribution
formula to use. The Department held up one payment awaiting
the Attorney General's opinion. Now another plan that
many of you are interested in is Senator DeCamp's LB 757
and I have no...I do not oppose that plan. However, it
does distribute more money to rural areas but it does not
really follow a formula. It merely states that no district
shall receive less per pupil than it did last year. It
does not take into consideration the changes, such as,
changes in valuation that have occurred in the district.
Although his plan benefits the rural areas more than my
plan does, I think mine is more acceptable because it has
the historical distribution formula behind it. It is the
same formula we have used before. I would direct your
attention to the letter which has been distributed to all
of you from Dr. Gene Lavender of the Norfolk Schools where
he states better than I can the reasons for supporting